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(54) **MODULATEURS SELECTIFS DU RECEPTEUR .GAMMA.**

**ACTIVE DE LA PROLIFERATION DES PEROXYSOMES ET
TECHNIQUES D'UTILISATIONS CORRESPONDANTES**

(54) **SELECTIVE MODULATORS OF PEROXISOME**

**PROLIFERATOR ACTIVATED RECEPTOR-.GAMMA., AND
METHODS FOR THE USE THEREOF**

Document **AL6**

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(57) Dans le cadre de cette invention, il est présenté une classe de composés capables moduler de manière sélective des processus régulés par un récepteur .gamma. activé de la prolifération des peroxysomes (PPAR-.gamma.). L'identification de ces composés permet d'intervenir de manière sélective dans des voies régulées par PPAR-.gamma. sans entraîner des effets intempestifs sur des voies régulées par d'autres isoformes de PPAR.

(57) In accordance with the present invention, there are provided a class of compounds which are capable of selectively modulating processes mediated by peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR-.gamma.). The identification of such compounds makes possible the selective intervention in PPAR-.gamma. mediated pathways, without exerting inadvertent effects on pathways mediated by other PPAR isoforms.

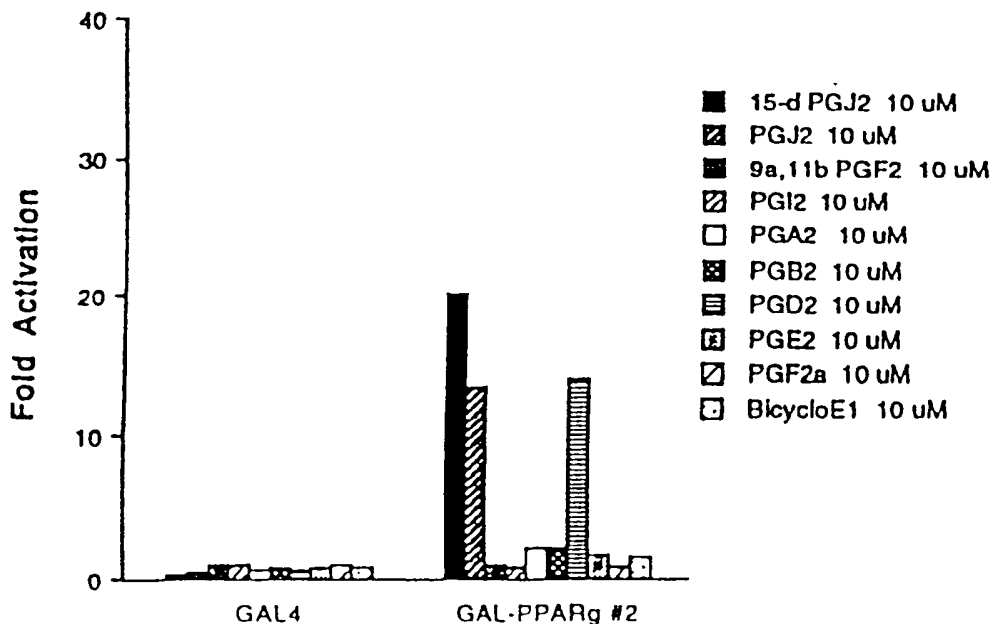
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(54) Title: SELECTIVE MODULATORS OF PEROXISOME PROLIFERATOR ACTIVATED RECEPTOR-GAMMA, AND METHODS FOR THE USE THEREOF



(57) Abstract

In accordance with the present invention, there are provided a class of compounds which are capable of selectively modulating processes mediated by peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR- γ). The identification of such compounds makes possible the selective intervention in PPAR- γ mediated pathways, without exerting inadvertent effects on pathways mediated by other PPAR isoforms.

Selective Modulators of Peroxisome Proliferator
Activated Receptor-gamma, and Methods for the Use Thereof

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to methods for the modulation of nuclear receptor mediated processes. In a particular aspect, the present invention relates to
5 the use of a specific class of compounds for the modulation of processes mediated by peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR- γ). In another aspect, the present invention relates to methods of testing compounds for their ability to regulate
10 transcription-activating effects of PPAR- γ .

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Peroxisome proliferators are a structurally diverse group of compounds which, when administered to rodents, elicit dramatic increases in the size and number
15 of hepatic and renal peroxisomes, as well as concomitant increases in the capacity of peroxisomes to metabolize fatty acids via increased expression of the enzymes required for the β -oxidation cycle (Lazarow and Fujiki, *Ann. Rev. Cell Biol.* 1:489-530 (1985); Vamecq and Draye,
20 *Essays Biochem.* 24:1115-225 (1989); and Nelali et al., *Cancer Res.* 48:5316-5324 (1988)). Chemicals included in this group are the fibrate class of hypolipidemic drugs, herbicides, and phthalate plasticizers (Reddy and Lalwani, *Crit. Rev. Toxicol.* 12:1-58 (1983)). Peroxisome
25 proliferation can also be elicited by dietary or physiological factors such as a high-fat diet and cold acclimatization.

Insight into the mechanism whereby peroxisome proliferators exert their pleiotropic effects was provided by the identification of a member of the nuclear hormone receptor superfamily activated by these chemicals

5 (Isseman and Green, *Nature* 347:645-650 (1990)). This receptor, termed peroxisome proliferator activated receptor alpha (PPAR α), was subsequently shown to be activated by a variety of medium and long-chain fatty acids and to stimulate expression of the genes encoding

10 rat acyl-CoA oxidase and hydratase-dehydrogenase (enzymes required for peroxisomal β -oxidation), as well as rabbit cytochrome P450 4A6, a fatty acid ω -hydroxylase (Gottlicher et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:4653-4657 (1992); Tugwood et al., *EMBO J.* 11:433-439 (1992);

15 Bardot et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* 192:37-45 (1993); Muerhoff et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 267:19051-19053 (1992); and Marcus et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90(12):5723-5727 (1993).

The above-noted references suggest a

20 physiological role for PPAR α in the regulation of lipid metabolism. PPAR α activates transcription by binding to DNA sequence elements, termed peroxisome proliferator response elements (PPRE), as a heterodimer with the retinoid X receptor. The retinoid X receptor is

25 activated by 9-*cis* retinoic acid (see Kliewer et al., *Nature* 358:771-774 (1992), Gearing et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:1440-1444 (1993), Keller et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:2160-2164 (1993), Heyman et al., *Cell* 68:397-406 (1992), and Levin et al., *Nature* 355:359-

30 361 (1992)). Since the PPAR α -RXR complex can be activated by peroxisome proliferators and/or 9-*cis* retinoic acid, the retinoid and fatty acid signaling pathways are seen to converge in modulating lipid metabolism.

Since the discovery of PPAR α , additional isoforms of PPAR have been identified, e.g., PPAR β , PPAR γ and PPAR δ , which are spatially differentially expressed. Because there are several isoforms of PPAR, it would be
5 desirable to identify compounds which are capable of selectively interacting with only one of the PPAR isoforms. Such compounds would find a wide variety of uses, such as, for example, in the prevention of obesity, for the treatment of diabetes, and the like.

10

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, we have identified a class of compounds which are capable of selectively modulating processes mediated by peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR- γ). The
15 identification of such compounds makes possible the selective intervention in PPAR- γ mediated pathways, without exerting inadvertent effects on pathways mediated by other PPAR isoforms.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

20

Figure 1 illustrates the activation of a GAL4-PPAR γ fusion protein by a variety of prostaglandin or prostaglandin-like compounds. In the figure, black bars represent 15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -prostaglandin- J_2 (15-d PGJ2), the dark, striped bars represent prostaglandin- J_2 (PGJ2), the
25 darkly shaded bars represent 9 α ,11 β -prostaglandin- F_2 (9 α ,11 β PGF2), the light, closely (diagonally) striped bars represent prostaglandin- I_2 (PGI2), the open bars represent prostaglandin- A_2 (PGA2), the dark bars with light dots represent prostaglandin- B_2 (PGB2), the
30 horizontally hatched bars represent prostaglandin- D_2 (PGD2), the light bars with dark dots represent prostaglandin- E_2 (PGE2), the light, sparsely (diagonally) hatched bars represent prostaglandin- $F_{2\alpha}$ (PGF2 α), and the

light bars with sparsely spaced dots represent bicycloprostaglandin-E₁ (BicycloE1).

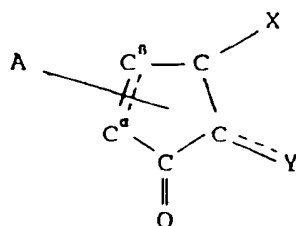
Figure 2 illustrates the dose response for activation of a GAL4-PPAR γ fusion protein by a variety of prostaglandin or prostaglandin-like compounds. In the figure, open circles represent prostaglandin-D₂ (PGD₂), darkened circles represent prostaglandin-J₂ (PGJ₂), open squares represent Δ^{12} -prostaglandin-J₂ (Δ^{12} -PGJ₂), and darkened squares represent 15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -prostaglandin-J₂ (15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -PGJ₂).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, there are provided methods for modulating process(es) mediated by peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR- γ), said method comprising conducting said process(es) in the presence of at least one PPAR- γ -selective prostaglandin or prostaglandin-like compound or precursor thereof.

PPAR- γ -selective prostaglandins or prostaglandin-like compounds contemplated for use in the practice of the present invention include members of the prostaglandin-J₂ family of compounds (e.g., prostaglandin-J₂, Δ^{12} -prostaglandin-J₂ or 15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -prostaglandin-J₂), members of the prostaglandin-D₂ family of compounds (e.g., prostaglandin-D₂), or precursors thereof, as well as compounds having the structure I:

5



(I)

5

wherein:

- 10 A is selected from hydrogen or a leaving group at the α - or β - position of the ring, or A is absent when there is a double bond between C^a and C^b of the ring;
- 15 X is an alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl group having in the range of 2 up to 15 carbon atoms; and
- 20 Y is an alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl group having in the range of 2 up to 15 carbon atoms.

As employed herein, the term "leaving group" refers to functional groups which can readily be removed from the precursor compound, for example, by nucleophilic displacement, under E₂ elimination conditions, and the like. Examples include hydroxy groups, alkoxy groups, tosylates, brosylates, halogens, and the like.

As employed herein, "lower alkyl" refers to straight or branched chain alkyl groups having in the range of about 1 up to 4 carbon atoms; "alkyl" refers to straight or branched chain alkyl groups having in the range of about 1 up to 12 carbon atoms; "substituted alkyl" refers to alkyl groups further bearing one or more substituents such as hydroxy, alkoxy (of a lower alkyl group), mercapto (of a lower alkyl group), halogen,

trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, amino, carboxyl, carbamate, sulfonyl, sulfonamide, and the like.

As employed herein, "cycloalkyl" refers to cyclic ring-containing groups containing in the range of about 3 up to 8 carbon atoms, and "substituted cycloalkyl" refers to cycloalkyl groups further bearing one or more substituents as set forth above.

As employed herein, "alkenyl" refers to straight or branched chain hydrocarbyl groups having at least one carbon-carbon double bond, and having in the range of about 2 up to 12 carbon atoms and "substituted alkenyl" refers to alkenyl groups further bearing one or more substituents as set forth above.

As employed herein, "alkynyl" refers to straight or branched chain hydrocarbyl groups having at least one carbon-carbon triple bond, and having in the range of about 2 up to 12 carbon atoms, and "substituted alkynyl" refers to alkynyl groups further bearing one or more substituents as set forth above.

As employed herein, "aryl" refers to aromatic groups having in the range of 6 up to 14 carbon atoms and "substituted aryl" refers to aryl groups further bearing one or more substituents as set forth above.

As employed herein, "alkylaryl" refers to alkyl-substituted aryl groups and "substituted alkylaryl" refers to alkylaryl groups further bearing one or more substituents as set forth above.

As employed herein, "arylalkyl" refers to aryl-substituted alkyl groups and "substituted arylalkyl" refers to arylalkyl groups further bearing one or more substituents as set forth above.

As employed herein, "arylalkenyl" refers to aryl-substituted alkenyl groups and "substituted arylalkenyl" refers to arylalkenyl groups further bearing one or more substituents as set forth above.

5 As employed herein, "arylalkynyl" refers to aryl-substituted alkynyl groups and "substituted arylalkynyl" refers to arylalkynyl groups further bearing one or more substituents as set forth above.

 As employed herein, "aroyl" refers to aryl-
10 carbonyl species such as benzoyl and "substituted aroyl" refers to aroyl groups further bearing one or more substituents as set forth above.

 As employed herein, "heterocyclic" refers to cyclic (i.e., ring-containing) groups containing one or
15 more heteroatoms (e.g., N, O, S, or the like) as part of the ring structure, and having in the range of 3 up to 14 carbon atoms and "substituted heterocyclic" refers to heterocyclic groups further bearing one or more substituents as set forth above.

20 As employed herein, "acyl" refers to alkyl-carbonyl species.

 As employed herein, "halogen" or "halo" refers to fluoro substituents, chloro substituents, bromo substituents or iodo substituents.

25 In a presently preferred aspect of the present invention, "X" of Formula I is selected from:

$-(CRR)_m-Z$,

$-(CRR)_m-C(R)=C(R)-(CRR)_m-Z$, or

$-(CRR)_m-C\equiv C-(CRR)_m-Z$, wherein:

30 each R is independently selected from H,
 lower alkyl, substituted lower alkyl,

hydroxy, lower alkoxy, thioalkyl,
halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano,
nitro, amino, carboxyl, carbamate,
sulfonyl or sulfonamide,
5 m falls in the range of 1 up to 15,
each m' falls independently in the range
of 0 up to 12, with the proviso that
the total chain length of the alkenyl
moiety does not exceed 15 carbon
10 atoms,
each m'' falls independently in the range
of 0 up to 12, with the proviso that
the total chain length of the alkynyl
moiety does not exceed 15 carbon
15 atoms, and
Z is a polar, heteroatom-containing
substituent.

Those of skill in the art can readily identify
numerous groups which satisfy the requirement that Z be a
20 polar, heteroatom-containing (i.e., O, N, S, or the like)
substituent. Thus, Z can be selected from cyano, nitro,
amino, carbamate, or a substituent having the structure:

-CH₂OR', wherein R' is selected from H, alkyl,
alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, or the like;
25 -C(O)R'', wherein R'' is selected from H, alkyl,
substituted alkyl, alkoxy, alkylamino,
alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl,
substituted alkynyl, aryl, substituted
aryl, aryloxy, arylamino, alkylaryl,
30 substituted alkylaryl, arylalkyl,
substituted arylalkyl, heterocyclic,
substituted heterocyclic or
trifluoromethyl,
-CO₂R''', wherein R''' is selected from H,
35 alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or the like;

-SR', -S(O)R', -S(O)₂R' or -S(O)₂NHR', wherein
each R' is as defined above,
and the like.

Especially preferred compounds employed in the
5 practice of the present invention are those wherein "X"
of Formula I is

-CRR-C(R)=C(R)-(CRR)_m-Z, wherein:

each R is independently selected from H,
lower alkyl, substituted lower alkyl,
10 hydroxy, alkoxy (of a lower alkyl
group), halogen, trifluoromethyl,
amino, carboxyl or sulfonyl,
m falls in the range of 1 up to 6, and
Z is selected from -CH₂OH, -CH₂OAc, -CO₂H,
15 -CO₂Me or -CO₂Et.

In another preferred aspect of the present
invention, "Y" of Formula I is selected from:

=C(R)-[C(R)=C(R)]_n-(CRR)_{n'}-Z' (II),
=C(R)-[C≡C]_n-(CRR)_{n'}-Z' (IIA),
20 =C(R)-CRR-CR(R')-(CRR)_n-Z' (III),
-[C(R)=C(R)]_n-(CRR)_{n'}-Z' (IV), or
-[C≡C]_n-(CRR)_{n'}-Z' (IVA),
wherein

each R is independently as defined
25 above,
each R' is independently selected
from H, lower alkyl, substituted
lower alkyl or a leaving group,
Z' is selected from H, lower alkyl or
30 substituted lower alkyl,
n falls in the range of 0 up to 4,
n' falls in the range of 2 up to 12, and
n" falls in the range of 1 up to 3.

Especially preferred compounds contemplated for use in the practice of the present invention include those wherein "Y" of Formula I is selected from:

- 5 $=C(R)-C(R)=C(R)-(CRR)_{n'}-Z'$ (II),
 $=C(R)-CRR-CR(R')-(CRR)_{n'}-Z'$ (III), or
 $-C(R)=C(R)-CR(R')-(CRR)_{n'}-Z'$ (IV), wherein
each R is independently as defined
above,
each R' is independently as defined
10 above,
Z' is selected from H, lower alkyl or
substituted lower alkyl, and
n' falls in the range of 1 up to 6.

Presently most preferred compounds for use in
15 the practice of the present invention include those
wherein "Y" of Formula I is

- $=C(R)-C(R)=C(R)-(CRR)_{n'}-Z'$ (II),
wherein each R is selected from H, lower alkyl or
substituted lower alkyl, n is 1, n' falls in the range of
20 about 2 up to 6, and Z' is selected from H or lower
alkyl; or those wherein "Y" of Formula I is
 $=C(R)-CRR-CR(R')-(CRR)_{n'}-Z'$ (III) or
 $-C(R)=C(R)-CR(R')-(CRR)_{n'}-Z'$ (IV),
wherein each R is selected from H, lower alkyl or
25 substituted lower alkyl, R' is selected from H, lower
alkyl, or an hydroxy group, n is 1, n' falls in the range
of about 2 up to 6, and Z' is selected from H or lower
alkyl.

Referring to the structural formulae set forth
30 above, prostaglandin-D₂ (Pg-D₂) is described by Formula I
(as set forth above), wherein A is 9-OH, Y is IV, each R
is hydrogen, R' is hydroxy, Z is -CO₂H, m is 3, Z' is
methyl, n is 1 and n' is 4; prostaglandin-J₂ (Pg-J₂) is
described by Formula I, wherein A is absent, Y is IV,
35 each R is hydrogen, R' is hydroxy, Z is -CO₂H, m is 3, Z'

11

is methyl, n is 1 and n' is 4; Δ^{12} -prostaglandin- J_2 (Δ^{12} -Pg- J_2) is described by Formula I, wherein A is absent, Y is III, each R is hydrogen, R' is hydroxy, Z is $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, m is 3, Z' is methyl, n is 1 and n' is 4;

- 5 15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -prostaglandin- J_2 (15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -Pg- J_2) is described by Formula I, wherein A is absent, Y is II, each R is hydrogen, Z is $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, m is 3, Z' is methyl, n is 1 and n' is 4.

The above-described compounds can be readily
10 prepared using a variety of synthetic methods, as are well known by those of skill in the art. For example, many of the above-described compounds can be prepared chemically or enzymatically, from the naturally occurring precursor, arachidonic acid.

- 15 As employed herein, the term "modulate" refers to the ability of a modulator for a member of the steroid/thyroid superfamily to either directly (by binding to the receptor as a ligand) or indirectly (as a precursor for a ligand or an inducer which promotes
20 production of ligand from a precursor) induce expression of gene(s) maintained under hormone expression control, or to repress expression of gene(s) maintained under such control.

- As employed herein, the phrase "processes
25 mediated by PPAR γ " refers to biological, physiological, endocrinological, and other bodily processes which are mediated by receptor or receptor combinations which are responsive to the PPAR- γ -selective prostaglandin or prostaglandin-like compounds described herein. Such
30 processes include cell differentiation to produce lipid-accumulating cells, modulation of blood glucose levels and insulin sensitivity, regulation of leptin levels and subsequent feeding levels (for the control of satiety and/or appetite), regulation of thermogenesis and fatty

acid metabolism, regulation of fat levels for the treatment of lipodystrophies, control of cell differentiation for the treatment of myxoid liposarcomas, regulation of triglyceride levels and lipoproteins for
5 the treatment of hyperlipidemia, modulation of genes expressed in adipose cells (e.g., leptin, lipoprotein, lipase, uncoupling protein, and the like), and the like.

In accordance with the present invention, modulation of processes mediated by PPAR γ can be
10 accomplished *in vitro* or *in vivo*. *In vivo* modulation can be carried out in a wide range of subjects, such as, for example, humans, rodents, sheep, pigs, cows, and the like.

PPAR- γ -selective prostaglandin or
15 prostaglandin-like compounds contemplated for use in the practice of the present invention can be employed for both *in vitro* and *in vivo* applications. For *in vivo* applications, the invention compounds can be incorporated into a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation for
20 administration. Those of skill in the art can readily determine suitable dosage levels when compounds contemplated for use in the practice of the present invention are so used.

In accordance with another embodiment of the
25 present invention, there is provided a method of testing compound(s) for the ability to regulate the transcription-activating effects of a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR- γ), said method comprising assaying for changes in the level of
30 reporter protein present as a result of contacting cells containing said receptor and reporter vector with said compound;

wherein said reporter vector comprises:

13

- (a) a promoter that is operable in said cell,
(b) a hormone response element, and
(c) a DNA segment encoding a reporter protein,

5

wherein said reporter protein-encoding DNA segment is operatively linked to said promoter for transcription of said DNA segment, and

10

wherein said hormone response element is operatively linked to said promoter for activation thereof.

Hormone response elements contemplated for use in the practice of the present invention are composed of at least one direct repeat of two or more half sites separated by a spacer of one nucleotide. The spacer nucleotide can be selected from any one of A, C, G or T. Each half site of response elements contemplated for use in the practice of the invention comprises the sequence

20

-RGBNNM-,

wherein

R is selected from A or G;

B is selected from G, C, or T;

each N is independently selected from

25

A, T, C, or G; and

M is selected from A or C;

with the proviso that at least 4 nucleotides of said -RGBNNM- sequence are identical with the nucleotides at corresponding positions of the sequence -AGGTCA-.

30

Response elements employed in the practice of the present invention can optionally be preceded by N_x , wherein x falls in the range of 0 up to 5.

Presently preferred response elements contain at least one copy (with one, two or three copies most common) of the minimal sequence:

35

AGGACA A AGGTCA (SEQ ID NO:4).

As noted above, the minimal sequence can optionally be flanked by additional residues, for example, as in the sequence:

5 GGACC AGGACA A AGGTCA CGTTC (SEQ ID NO:5).

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, only the ligand binding domain of PPAR γ is utilized, in combination with the DNA binding domain of GAL4 protein, for the identification of PPAR γ ligands or
10 ligand-precursors. This allows one to avoid possible background signal caused by the potential presence of endogenous PPAR γ in the host cells used for the assay.

The DNA binding domain of the yeast GAL4 protein comprises at least the first 74 amino acids
15 thereof (see, for example, Keegan et al., Science 231:699-704 (1986)). Preferably, the first 90 or more amino acids of the GAL4 protein will be used, with the first 147 amino acid residues of yeast GAL4 being presently most preferred.

20 The GAL4 fragment employed in the practice of the present invention can be incorporated into any of a number of sites within the PPAR γ receptor protein. For example, the GAL4 DNA binding domain can be introduced at the amino terminus of the PPAR γ receptor protein, or the
25 GAL4 DNA binding domain can be substituted for the native DNA binding domain of the PPAR γ receptor, or the GAL4 DNA binding domain can be introduced at the carboxy terminus of the PPAR γ receptor protein, or at other positions as can readily be determined by those of skill in the art.
30 Thus, for example, a modified receptor protein can be prepared which consists essentially of amino acid residues 1-147 of GAL4, plus the ligand binding domain of PPAR γ (i.e., containing the ligand binding domain only of said receptor (i.e., residues 163-475 of SEQ ID NO:1),

15

substantially absent the DNA binding domain and amino terminal domain thereof).

Identification methods according to the present invention involve the use of a functional bioassay system, wherein the modified receptor and a reporter plasmid are cultured in suitable host cells in the presence of test compound. Evidence of transcription (e.g., expression) of reporter gene is then monitored to determine the presence of an activated receptor-ligand complex. Accordingly, the functional bioassay system utilizes two plasmids: an "expression" plasmid and a "reporter" plasmid. The expression plasmid can be any plasmid which contains and is capable of expressing DNA encoding the desired form of PPAR γ receptor protein (i.e., intact receptor or GAL4 chimeric receptor as described hereinabove), in a suitable host cell. The reporter plasmid can be any plasmid which contains an operative PPRE or GAL4 response element, as appropriate, functionally linked to an operative reporter gene.

Exemplary PPRES have been described in detail hereinabove. Exemplary GAL4 response elements are those containing the palindromic 17-mer:

5'-CGGAGGACTGTCCTCCG-3' (SEQ ID NO:6),

such as, for example, 17MX, as described by Webster et al., in Cell 52:169-178 (1988), as well as derivatives thereof. Additional examples of suitable response elements include those described by Hollenberg and Evans in Cell 55:899-906 (1988); or Webster et al. in Cell 54:199-207 (1988).

Exemplary reporter genes include chloramphenicol transferase (CAT), luciferase (LUC), beta-galactosidase (β -gal), and the like. Exemplary

promoters include the simian virus (SV) promoter or modified form thereof (e.g., Δ SV), the thymidine kinase (TK) promoter, the mammary tumor virus (MTV) promoter or modified form thereof (e.g., Δ MTV), and the like [see, 5 for example, Mangelsdorf et al., in Nature 345:224-229 (1990), Mangelsdorf et al., in Cell 66:555-561 (1991), and Berger et al., in J. Steroid Biochem. Molec. Biol. 41:733-738 (1992)]. The plasmids pGMCAT, pGHCAT, pTK-GAL_p3-LUC, Δ MTV-GAL_p3-LUC, Δ MTV-GAL_p3-CAT, and the like, 10 are examples of reporter plasmids which contain an operative hormone responsive promoter/enhancer element functionally linked to an operative reporter gene, and can therefore be used in the above-described functional bioassay (see Example 2 for details on the preparation of 15 these plasmids). In pGMCAT, the operative hormone responsive promoter/enhancer element is the MTV LTR; in pGHCAT it is the functional portion of the growth hormone promoter. In both pGMCAT and GHCAT the operative reporter gene is the bacterial gene for chloramphenicol 20 acetyltransferase (CAT).

As used herein in the phrase "operative response element functionally linked to an operative reporter gene", the word "operative" means that the respective DNA sequences (represented by the terms 25 "PPRE," "GAL4 response element" and "reporter gene") are operational, i.e., work for their intended purposes; the word "functionally" means that after the two segments are linked, upon appropriate activation by a ligand-receptor complex, the reporter gene will be expressed as the 30 result of the fact that the "PPRE" or "GAL4 response element" was "turned on" or otherwise activated.

In practicing the above-described functional bioassay, the expression plasmid and the reporter plasmid are co-transfected into suitable host cells. The 35 transfected host cells are then cultured in the presence

and absence of a test compound to determine if the test compound is able to produce activation of the promoter operatively linked to the PPRE or GAL4 response element of the reporter plasmid. Thereafter, the transfected and
5 cultured host cells are monitored for induction (i.e., the presence) of the product of the reporter gene sequence.

Any cell line can be used as a suitable "host" for the functional bioassay contemplated for use in the
10 practice of the present invention. Thus, in contrast to the requirements of prior art assay systems, when GAL4 chimerics are employed, there is no need to use receptor-negative cells in carrying out the invention process. Since the modified receptor employed in the practice of
15 the present invention is the only species in the test cell which is capable of initiating transcription from a GAL4 response element, the expression of native receptor by the test cell does not contribute to background levels. Thus, the invention bioassay can be made to be
20 very selective.

Cells contemplated for use in the practice of the present invention include transformed cells, non-transformed cells, neoplastic cells, primary cultures of different cell types, and the like. Exemplary cells
25 which can be employed in the practice of the present invention include Schneider cells, CV-1 cells, HuTu80 cells, F9 cells, NTERA2 cells, NB4 cells, HL-60 cells, 293 cells, Hela cells, yeast cells, and the like. Preferred host cells for use in the functional bioassay
30 system are COS cells and CV-1 cells. COS-1 (referred to as COS) cells are monkey kidney cells that express SV40 T antigen (Tag); while CV-1 cells do not express SV40 Tag. The presence of Tag in the COS-1 derivative lines allows the introduced expression plasmid to replicate and
35 provides a relative increase in the amount of receptor

produced during the assay period. CV-1 cells are presently preferred because they are particularly convenient for gene transfer studies and provide a sensitive and well-described host cell system.

5 The above-described cells (or fractions thereof) are maintained under physiological conditions when contacted with physiologically active compound. "Physiological conditions" are readily understood by those of skill in the art to comprise an isotonic,
10 aqueous nutrient medium at a temperature of about 37°C.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method of screening for antagonists of PPAR γ receptor proteins, said method comprising

15 culturing test cells containing
 (i) increasing concentrations of at least one compound whose ability to inhibit the transcription activation activity of PPAR γ agonists is sought to be
20 determined, and
 (ii) optionally, at least one PPAR γ agonist,

 wherein said test cells contain
 (i) exogenous DNA which
25 expresses intact PPAR γ or a modified form of PPAR γ , wherein the modified form of PPAR γ contains the DNA binding domain of GAL4, and
 (ii) a PPRE or GAL4 response
30 element, respectively, operatively linked to a reporter gene; and thereafter

assaying for evidence of transcription of said reporter gene in said cells as a function of the concentration of said compound in said culture medium, thereby indicating the ability of said compound to inhibit activation of transcription by PPAR γ agonists.

Media employed for such culturing may include agonist for the receptor being tested, or the receptor may be constitutive (i.e., not require the presence of agonist for activation), or a fixed concentration of agonist can be added to the media employed for such testing.

The above-described assays of the present invention have low background and a broad dynamic range.

In accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method for preventing obesity, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an amount of a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR- γ) antagonist effective to block cell differentiation to produce lipid-accumulating cells.

As employed here, "obesity" refers generally to individuals who are at least about 20-30% over the average weight for his/her age, sex and height. Technically, "obese" is defined, for males, as individuals whose body mass index is greater than 27.8 kg/m², and for females, as individuals whose body mass index is greater than 27.3 kg/m².

Those of skill in the art recognize that there are numerous cell types which are capable of differentiation to produce "lipid-accumulating cells,"

such as, for example, mesenchymal cells (e.g., fibroblasts).

As employed herein, the phrase "amount... effective to block cell differentiation" refers to levels
5 of compound sufficient to provide circulating concentrations high enough to effect activation of PPAR γ . Such a concentration typically falls in the range of about 10 nM up to 2 μ M; with concentrations in the range of about 100 nM up to 200 nM being preferred.

10 In accordance with a particular embodiment of the present invention, compositions comprising at least one prostaglandin or prostaglandin-like compound (as described above), and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier are contemplated. Exemplary pharmaceutically
15 acceptable carriers include carriers suitable for oral, intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intracutaneous, and the like administration. Administration in the form of creams, lotions, tablets, dispersible powders, granules, syrups, elixirs, sterile aqueous or non-aqueous
20 solutions, suspensions or emulsions, and the like, is contemplated.

For the preparation of oral liquids, suitable carriers include emulsions, solutions, suspensions, syrups, and the like, optionally containing additives
25 such as wetting agents, emulsifying and suspending agents, sweetening, flavoring and perfuming agents, and the like.

For the preparation of fluids for parenteral administration, suitable carriers include sterile aqueous
30 or non-aqueous solutions, suspensions, or emulsions. Examples of non-aqueous solvents or vehicles are propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, vegetable oils, such as olive oil and corn oil, gelatin, and injectable

organic esters such as ethyl oleate. Such dosage forms may also contain adjuvants such as preserving, wetting, emulsifying, and dispersing agents. They may be sterilized, for example, by filtration through a bacteria-retaining filter, by incorporating sterilizing agents into the compositions, by irradiating the compositions, or by heating the compositions. They can also be manufactured in the form of sterile water, or some other sterile injectable medium immediately before use.

In accordance with still another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method for treating diabetes, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an amount of a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR- γ) agonist effective to lower the blood glucose level of said subject.

As employed herein, the phrase "amount... effective to lower blood glucose levels" refers to levels of compound sufficient to provide circulating concentrations high enough to accomplish the desired effect. Such a concentration typically falls in the range of about 10 nM up to 2 μ M; with concentrations in the range of about 100 nM up to 200 nM being preferred.

The invention will now be described in greater detail by reference to the following non-limiting examples.

Example 1

Preparation of GAL4-receptor fusion proteins

A basic vector useful for the generation of GAL4-receptor fusion proteins is called pCMX-GAL4 (see SEQ ID NO:2). This vector encodes GAL4 DNA binding

domain, followed by a polylinker sequence useful in the cloning. The parental expression vector pCMX has been described by Umesono et al., in Cell 65:1255-1266 (1991), and the GAL4 portion of pCMX-GAL4 is derived from plasmid
5 pSG424, described by Sadowski and Ptashne, in Nucleic Acids Res. 17:7539 (1989).

In general, GAL4-receptor ligand binding domain fusions are prepared by taking advantage of mutant receptor cDNA clones, such as GR-RAR chimera [see, for
10 example, Giguere et al., in Nature 330:624-629 (1987)]. These mutant receptor cDNAs encode common XhoI sites at the end of the DNA binding domain, as described by Giguere et al., supra. To do so, a new pCMX-GAL4 vector was prepared which encodes a compatible SalI site in the
15 polylinker sequence (there is an XhoI site in the GAL4 sequence):

SalI site: G'TCGAC

XhoI site: C'TCGAG

This allows efficient transfer of the receptor ligand
20 binding domain to GAL4 DNA binding domain. Through this method, a number of chimeric species have been generated, including GAL4-PPAR γ , containing residues 163-475 of PPAR γ (see SEQ ID NO:1).

If mutants of the type referred to above are
25 not available for the construction of GAL4-containing chimerics, one may simply look for any convenient restriction enzyme site within or downstream of the DNA binding domain of the receptor of interest (i.e., within about the first 30 amino acid residues downstream of the
30 conserved Gly-Met residues of the DNA binding domain, i.e., within 30 residues of the last two residues shown in SEQ ID NO:1), and utilize the carboxy terminal sequences therefrom.

Example 2Preparation of reporter constructs

Various reporter constructs are used in the examples which follow. They are prepared as follows:

5 TK-LUC: The MTV-LTR promoter sequence was removed from the MTV-LUC plasmid described by Hollenberg and Evans in Cell 55:899-906 (1988) by *HindIII* and *XhoI* digest, and cloned with the *HindIII*-*XhoI* fragment of the Herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase gene promoter (-105
10 to +51 with respect to the transcription start site, m, isolated from plasmid pBLCAT2, described by Luckow & Schutz in Nucleic Acids Res. 15:5490 (1987)) to generate parental construct TK-LUC.

PTK-PPRE3-LUC: Three copies of double-stranded
15 peroxisome proliferator response element (PPRE) oligonucleotides (see SEQ ID NO:3) were cloned upstream of the TK promoter of TK-LUC at the *SalI* site.

PTK-MH100x4-LUC: Four copies of double-stranded MH100 oligonucleotides, encoding a GAL4 binding
20 site, were cloned upstream of the TK promoter of TK-LUC at the *HindIII* site.

CMX- β GAL: The coding sequence for the *E. coli* β -galactosidase gene was isolated from plasmid pCH110 [see Hall et al., J. Mol. Appl. Genet. 2:101-109 (1983)]
25 by *HindIII* and *BamHI* digest, and cloned into pCMX eucaryotic expression vector [see Umesono et al., supra].

Example 3Screening assay for receptor selective agonists

CV-1 cells are co-transfected with CMX-GAL-
30 PPAR γ and PTK-MH100x4-LUC at a ratio of about 100 ng of

receptor-encoding DNA per 10^5 cells. The usual amounts of DNA per 10^5 cells are 100 ng of CMX-GAL-PPAR γ , 300 ng of pTK-MH100x4-LUC, and 500 ng of CMX- β GAL. Typically, transfections are performed in triplicate. The plates
5 are then incubated for 2-3 hours at 37°C.

The cells are washed with fresh medium. Fresh medium containing one concentration of a serial dilution of agonist is added to each well. A typical agonist dilution series extends from 10^{-5} M through 10^{-11} M. A
10 solvent control is performed for each agonist. The cells are incubated at 37°C for 1-2 days.

The cells are rinsed twice with buffered saline solution. Subsequently, cells are lysed, *in situ*, by adding 200 μ l of lysis buffer. After 30 minutes
15 incubation at room temperature, 40 μ l aliquots of cell lysate are transferred to 96-well plates for luciferase reporter gene assays and β -galactosidase transfection controls [see Heyman et al., Cell 68:397-406 (1992)].

The data are expressed as relative light units (RLUs) per O.D. unit of β -galactosidase per minute. The triplicates are averaged for each concentration and plotted (see Figure 1) as fold induction induced by a standard dose (10 μ M) of agonist.

Example 4

25 Dose response of GAL4-PPAR γ constructs to various prostaglandins

Effector plasmid, reporter plasmid, and β -galactosidase control plasmid are co-transfected into CV-1 cells at a ratio of about 1:3:5, using a liposome-mediated method, employing N-{2-(2,3)-dioleoyloxy}propyl-N,N,N-trimethyl ammonium methyl sulfate} (i.e., DOTAP, Boehringer Mannheim) according to the manufacturer's

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instructions in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) with 10% delipidated hormone-depleted fetal calf serum. After about 2-3 hours, the cells are washed with DMEM and an appropriate prostaglandin is added to the media to the
5 final molar concentration indicated in Figure 2. After 24-48 hours of incubation, the cells are rinsed with phosphate buffered saline (pH 7.2) and lysed. Aliquots are assayed for luciferase and β -galactosidase activity. Luciferase activity is normalized to optical density
10 units of β -galactosidase per minute of incubation.

The data are expressed in Figure 2 as fold induction over the same construct incubated in solvent alone. Review of Figure 2 reveals that PGD2 and PGJ2 families of compounds are functional modulators of PPAR γ .

15 While the invention has been described in detail with reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood that modifications and variations are within the spirit and scope of that which is described and claimed.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (i) APPLICANT: Evans, Ronald M.
Forman, Barry M.
- 5 (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: SELECTIVE MODULATORS OF PEROXISOME
PROLIFERATOR ACTIVATED RECEPTOR-GAMMA, AND METHODS FOR THE USE
THEREOF
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 6
- 10 (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
(A) ADDRESSEE: Pretty, Schroeder, Brueggemann & Clark
(B) STREET: 444 South Flower Street, Suite 2000
(C) CITY: Los Angeles
(D) STATE: CA
15 (E) COUNTRY: USA
(F) ZIP: 90071
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
20 (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
(D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: US 08/465,375
25 (B) FILING DATE: 05-JUN-1995
(C) CLASSIFICATION:
- (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
(A) APPLICATION NUMBER: US 08/428,559
(B) FILING DATE: 25-APR-1995
- 30 (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
(A) NAME: Reiter, Stephen E.
(B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 31,192
(C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: P41 90001
- (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
35 (A) TELEPHONE: 619-546-1995
(B) TELEFAX: 619-546-9392

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
40 (A) LENGTH: 2005 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: both
(D) TOPOLOGY: both
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA
- (ix) FEATURE:
45 (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 352..1776

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

ATCGAATCCC GCGCCCCAGG CGCTGCCGCT CTGAGTGCGA CGGGCCCCGC CTGGCCGGCC

WO 96/33724

PCT/US96/05465

27

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	GGGACCGAGT	GTGACGACAA	GGTGACCGGG	CTGAGGGGAC	GGGCTGAGGA	GAAGTCACAC	180
	TCTGACAGGA	GCCTGTGAGA	CCAACAGCCT	GACGGGGTCT	CGGTTGAGGG	GACGCGGGCT	240
	GAGAAGTCAC	GTTCTGACAG	GACTGTGTGA	CAGACAAGAT	TTGAAAGAAG	CGGTGAACCA	300
5	CTGATATTCA	GGACATTTTT	AAAAACAAGA	CTACCCTTTA	CTGAAATTAC	C ATG GTT Met Val 1	357
10	GAC ACA GAG ATG CCA TTC TGG CCC ACC AAC TTC GGA ATC AGC TCT GTG Asp Thr Glu Met Pro Phe Trp Pro Thr Asn Phe Gly Ile Ser Ser Val 5 10 15	405					
	GAC CTC TCC GTG ATG GAA GAC CAC TCG CAT TCC TTT GAC ATC AAG CCC Asp Leu Ser Val Met Glu Asp His Ser His Ser Phe Asp Ile Lys Pro 20 25 30	453					
15	TTT ACC ACA GTT GAT TTC TCC AGC ATT TCT GCT CCA CAC TAT GAA GAC Phe Thr Thr Val Asp Phe Ser Ser Ile Ser Ala Pro His Tyr Glu Asp 35 40 45 50	501					
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20	CTG AAG CTC CAA GAA TAC CAA AGT GCG ATC AAA GTA GAA CCT GCA TCT Leu Lys Leu Gln Glu Tyr Gln Ser Ala Ile Lys Val Glu Pro Ala Ser 70 75 80	597					
25	CCA CCT TAT TAT TCT GAA AAG ACC CAG CTC TAC AAC AGG CCT CAT GAA Pro Pro Tyr Tyr Ser Glu Lys Thr Gln Leu Tyr Asn Arg Pro His Glu 85 90 95	645					
	GAA CCT TCT AAC TCC CTC ATG GCC ATT GAG TGC CGA GTC TGT GGG GAT Glu Pro Ser Asn Ser Leu Met Ala Ile Glu Cys Arg Val Cys Gly Asp 100 105 110	693					
30	AAA GCA TCA GGC TTC CAC TAT GGA GTT CAT GCT TGT GAA GGA TGC AAG Lys Ala Ser Gly Phe His Tyr Gly Val His Ala Cys Glu Gly Cys Lys 115 120 125 130	741					
	GGT TTT TTC CGA AGA ACC ATC CGA TTG AAG CTT ATT TAT GAT AGG TGT Gly Phe Phe Arg Arg Thr Ile Arg Leu Lys Leu Ile Tyr Asp Arg Cys 135 140 145	789					
35	GAT CTT AAC TGC CGG ATC CAC AAA AAA AGT AGA AAT AAA TGT CAG TAC Asp Leu Asn Cys Arg Ile His Lys Lys Ser Arg Asn Lys Cys Gln Tyr 150 155 160	837					
40	TGT CGG TTT CAG AAG TGC CTT GCT GTG GGG ATG TCT CAC AAT GCC ATC Cys Arg Phe Gln Lys Cys Leu Ala Val Gly Met Ser His Asn Ala Ile 165 170 175	885					
	AGG TTT GGG CGG ATG CCA CAG GCC GAG AAG GAG AAG CTG TTG GCG GAG Arg Phe Gly Arg Met Pro Gln Ala Glu Lys Glu Lys Leu Leu Ala Glu 180 185 190	933					
45	ATC TCC AGT GAT ATC GAC CAG CTG AAC CCA GAG TCT GCT GAT CTG CGA Ile Ser Ser Asp Ile Asp Gln Leu Asn Pro Glu Ser Ala Asp Leu Arg 195 200 205 210	981					
	GCC CTG GCA AAG CAT TTG TAT GAC TCA TAC ATA AAG TCC TTC CCG CTG Ala Leu Ala Lys His Leu Tyr Asp Ser Tyr Ile Lys Ser Phe Pro Leu 215 220 225	1029					

WO 96/33724

PCT/US96/05465

28

	ACC AAA GCC AAG GCG AGG GCG ATC TTG ACA GGA AAG ACA ACG GAC AAA	1077
	Thr Lys Ala Lys Ala Arg Ala Ile Leu Thr Gly Lys Thr Thr Asp Lys	
	230 235 240	
5	TCA CCA TTT GTC ATC TAC GAC ATG AAT TCC TTA ATG ATG GGA GAA GAT	1125
	Ser Pro Phe Val Ile Tyr Asp Met Asn Ser Leu Met Met Gly Glu Asp	
	245 250 255	
	AAA ATC AAG TTC AAA CAT ATC ACC CCC CTG CAG GAG CAG AGC AAA GAG	1173
	Lys Ile Lys Phe Lys His Ile Thr Pro Leu Gln Glu Gln Ser Lys Glu	
	260 265 270	
10	GTG GCC ATC CGA ATT TTT CAA GGG TGC CAG TTT CGA TCC GTA GAA GCC	1221
	Val Ala Ile Arg Ile Phe Gln Gly Cys Gln Phe Arg Ser Val Glu Ala	
	275 280 285 290	
15	GTG CAA GAG ATC ACA GAG TAT GCC AAA AAT ATC CCT GGT TTC ATT AAC	1269
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25	CGG AAG CCC TTT GGT GAC TTT ATG GAG CCT AAG TTT GAG TTT GCT GTG	1461
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30	AAG TTC AAT GCA CTG GAA TTA GAT GAC AGT GAC TTG GCT ATA TTT ATA	1509
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	375 380 385	
	GCT GTC ATT ATT CTC AGT GGA GAC CGC CCA GGC TTG CTG AAC GTG AAG	1557
	Ala Val Ile Ile Leu Ser Gly Asp Arg Pro Gly Leu Leu Asn Val Lys	
	390 395 400	
35	CCC ATC GAG GAC ATC CAA GAC AAC CTG CTG CAG GCC CTG GAA CTG CAG	1605
	Pro Ile Glu Asp Ile Gln Asp Asn Leu Leu Gln Ala Leu Glu Leu Gln	
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	CTC AAG CTG AAT CAC CCA GAG TCC TCT CAG CTG TTC GCC AAG GTG CTC	1653
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40	CAG AAG ATG ACA GAC CTC AGG CAG ATC GTC ACA GAG CAC GTG CAG CTA	1701
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45	CTG CAT GTG ATC AAG AAG ACA GAG ACA GAC ATG AGC CTT CAC CCC CTG	1749
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WO 96/33724

PCT/US96/05465

29

TAAGAAATTT ACTGTGAAAA AGCATTATAA AACAAAAAGT TTTAGAACAT GATCTATTTT 1916
 ATGCATATTG TTTATAAAGA TACATTTACA ATTACTTTT AATATTAAAA ATTACCACAT 1976
 TATAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAA AGGAATTCC 2005

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

5 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 546 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: both
 (D) TOPOLOGY: both

10 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(ix) FEATURE:
 (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
 (B) LOCATION: 35..544

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

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20 ATC GAA CAA GCA TGC GAT ATT TGC CGA CTT AAA AAG CTC AAG TGC TCC 100
 Ile Glu Gln Ala Cys Asp Ile Cys Arg Leu Lys Lys Leu Lys Cys Ser
 10 15 20

AAA GAA AAA CCG AAG TGC GCC AAG TGT CTG AAG AAC AAC TGG GAG TGT 148
 Lys Glu Lys Pro Lys Cys Ala Lys Cys Leu Lys Asn Asn Trp Glu Cys
 25 30 35

25 CGC TAC TCT CCC AAA ACC AAA AGG TCT CCG CTG ACT AGG GCA CAT CTG 196
 Arg Tyr Ser Pro Lys Thr Lys Arg Ser Pro Leu Thr Arg Ala His Leu
 40 45 50

ACA GAA GTG GAA TCA AGG CTA GAA AGA CTG GAA CAG CTA TTT CTA CTG 244
 Thr Glu Val Glu Ser Arg Leu Glu Arg Leu Glu Gln Leu Phe Leu Leu
 55 60 65 70

30 ATT TTT CCT CGA GAA GAC CTT GAC ATG ATT TTG AAA ATG GAT TCT TTA 292
 Ile Phe Pro Arg Glu Asp Leu Asp Met Ile Leu Lys Met Asp Ser Leu
 75 80 85

35 CAG GAT ATA AAA GCA TTG TTA ACA GGA TTA TTT GTA CAA GAT AAT GTG 340
 Gln Asp Ile Lys Ala Leu Leu Thr Gly Leu Phe Val Gln Asp Asn Val
 90 95 100

AAT AAA GAT GCC GTC ACA GAT AGA TTG GCT TCA GTG GAG ACT GAT ATG 388
 Asn Lys Asp Ala Val Thr Asp Arg Leu Ala Ser Val Glu Thr Asp Met
 105 110 115

40 CCT CTA ACA TTG AGA CAG CAT AGA ATA AGT GCG ACA TCA TCA TCG GAA 436
 Pro Leu Thr Leu Arg Gln His Arg Ile Ser Ala Thr Ser Ser Ser Glu
 120 125 130

GAG AGT AGT AAC AAA GGT CAA AGA CAG TTG ACT GTA TCG CCG GAA TTC 484
 Glu Ser Ser Asn Lys Gly Gln Arg Gln Leu Thr Val Ser Pro Glu Phe
 135 140 145 150

45 CCG GGG ATC CGT CGA CGG TAC CAG ATA TCA GGA TCC TGG CCA GCT AGC 532
 Pro Gly Ile Arg Arg Tyr Gln Ile Ser Gly Ser Trp Pro Ala Ser
 155 160 165

WO 96/33724

PCT/US96/05465

30

TAG GTA GCT AGA GG
 * Val Ala Arg
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546

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

5

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 170 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

10

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

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 20 25 30
 Lys Asn Asn Trp Glu Cys Arg Tyr Ser Pro Lys Thr Lys Arg Ser Pro
 35 40 45
 Leu Thr Arg Ala His Leu Thr Glu Val Glu Ser Arg Leu Glu Arg Leu
 50 55 60
 Glu Gln Leu Phe Leu Leu Ile Phe Pro Arg Glu Asp Leu Asp Met Ile
 65 70 75 80
 Leu Lys Met Asp Ser Leu Gln Asp Ile Lys Ala Leu Leu Thr Gly Leu
 85 90 95
 Phe Val Gln Asp Asn Val Asn Lys Asp Ala Val Thr Asp Arg Leu Ala
 100 105 110
 Ser Val Glu Thr Asp Met Pro Leu Thr Leu Arg Gln His Arg Ile Ser
 115 120 125
 Ala Thr Ser Ser Ser Glu Glu Ser Ser Asn Lys Gly Gln Arg Gln Leu
 130 135 140
 Thr Val Ser Pro Glu Phe Pro Gly Ile Arg Arg Arg Tyr Gln Ile Ser
 145 150 155 160
 Gly Ser Trp Pro Ala Ser * Val Ala Arg
 165 170

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

35

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 13 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: both
 (D) TOPOLOGY: both

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

40

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

AGGACAAAGG TCA

13

WO 96/33724

PCT/US96/05465

31

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 23 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: both
(D) TOPOLOGY: both

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

GGACCAGGAC AAAGGTCACG TTC

23

10 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 17 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: both
(D) TOPOLOGY: both

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

CGGAGGACTG TCCTCCG

17

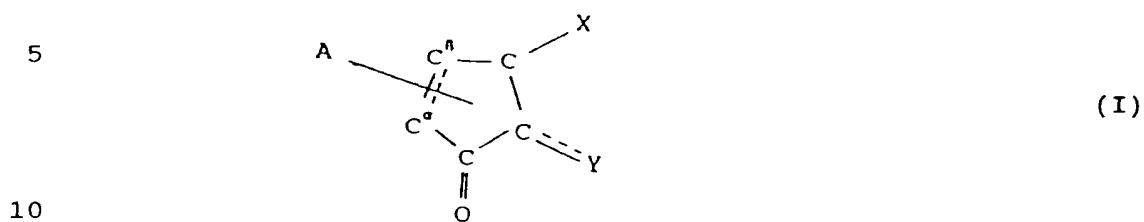
That which is claimed is:

1. A method for modulating process(es) mediated by peroxisome proliferator activated receptor- γ (PPAR- γ), said method comprising conducting said process(es) in the presence of at least one PPAR- γ -selective prostaglandin or prostaglandin-like compound or precursor thereof.

2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said PPAR- γ -selective prostaglandin is selected from a prostaglandin- J_2 , a prostaglandin- D_2 , or a precursor thereof.

3. A method according to Claim 2 wherein said prostaglandin- J_2 is selected from prostaglandin- J_2 , Δ^{12} -prostaglandin- J_2 or 15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -prostaglandin- J_2 .

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said PPAR- γ -selective prostaglandin or prostaglandin-like compound has the structure I:



wherein:

A is selected from hydrogen or a leaving group at the α - or β - position of the ring, or A is absent when there is a double bond between C^α and C^β of the ring;

15 X is an alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or

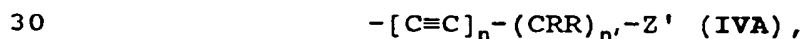
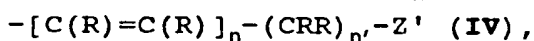
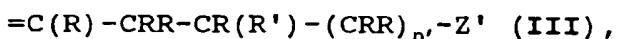
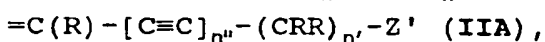
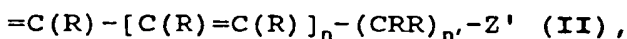
substituted alkynyl group having in the
range of 2 up to 15 carbon atoms; and
20 Y is an alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl,
substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or
substituted alkynyl group having in the
range of 2 up to 15 carbon atoms.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein:

X of Formula I is selected from:

-(CRR)_m-Z,
-(CRR)_{m'}-C(R)=C(R)-(CRR)_{m'}-Z, or
5 -(CRR)_{m''}-C≡C-(CRR)_{m''}-Z, wherein:
each R is independently selected from
hydrogen, lower alkyl, substituted
lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy,
thioalkyl, halogen, trifluoromethyl,
10 cyano, nitro, amino, carboxyl,
carbamate, sulfonyl or sulfonamide,
m falls in the range of 1 up to 15,
each m' falls independently in the range
of 0 up to 12, with the proviso that
15 the total chain length of the alkenyl
moiety does not exceed 15 carbon
atoms,
each m'' falls independently in the range
of 0 up to 12, with the proviso that
20 the total chain length of the alkynyl
moiety does not exceed 15 carbon
atoms, and
Z is a polar, heteroatom-containing
substituent; and

25 Y of Formula I is selected from:



wherein

each R is independently as defined
above,

35 each R' is independently selected
from H, lower alkyl, substituted
lower alkyl, or a leaving group,
Z' is selected from H, lower alkyl or
substituted lower alkyl,

40 n falls in the range of 0 up to 4,
n' falls in the range of 2 up to 12, and
n'' falls in the range of 1 up to 3.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein Z is
selected from cyano, nitro, amino, carbamate, or a
substituent having the structure:

5 $-CH_2OR'$, wherein R' is selected from H, alkyl,
alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl or aryl;

10 $-C(O)R''$, wherein R'' is selected from H, alkyl,
substituted alkyl, alkoxy, alkylamino,
alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl,
substituted alkynyl, aryl, substituted
aryl, aryloxy, arylamino, alkylaryl,
substituted alkylaryl, arylalkyl,
substituted arylalkyl, heterocyclic,
substituted heterocyclic or
trifluoromethyl,

15 $-CO_2R'''$, wherein R''' is selected from H,
alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl;

$-SR'$, $-S(O)R'$, $-S(O)_2R'$ or $-S(O)_2NHR'$, wherein
each R' is as defined above.

7. A method according to claim 5 wherein:

X of Formula I is $\text{-CRR-C(R)=C(R)-(CRR)}_m\text{-Z}$,
wherein:

each R is independently selected from
hydrogen, lower alkyl, substituted
lower alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy (of a
lower alkyl group), halogen,
trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxyl, or
sulfonyl,

m falls in the range of 1 up to 6, and
Z is selected from $\text{-CH}_2\text{OH}$, $\text{-CH}_2\text{OAc}$, $\text{-CO}_2\text{H}$,
 $\text{-CO}_2\text{Me}$ or $\text{-CO}_2\text{Et}$; and

Y of Formula I is selected from:

$\text{=C(R)-C(R)=C(R)-(CRR)}_{n'}\text{-Z' (II)}$,

$\text{=C(R)-CRR-CR(R')-(CRR)}_{n'}\text{-Z' (III)}$, or

$\text{-C(R)=C(R)-CR(R')-(CRR)}_{n'}\text{-Z' (IV)}$, wherein
each R is independently as defined
above,

each R' is independently selected
from H, lower alkyl, substituted
lower alkyl, or a leaving group,
Z' is selected from H, lower alkyl or
substituted lower alkyl, and

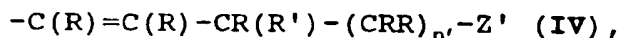
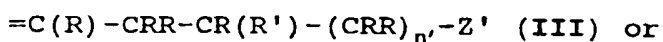
n' falls in the range of 1 up to 6.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein Y of
Formula I is

$\text{=C(R)-C(R)=C(R)-(CRR)}_n\text{-Z' (II)}$,

wherein each R is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl or
substituted lower alkyl, n is 1, n' falls in the range of
about 2 up to 6, and Z' is selected from hydrogen or
lower alkyl.

9. A method according to claim 7 wherein Y of Formula I is



- 5 wherein each R is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl or substituted lower alkyl, R' is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, or an hydroxy group, n is 1, n' falls in the range of about 2 up to 6, and Z' is selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl.

10. A method according to claim 5 wherein A is 9-OH, Y is IV, each R is hydrogen, R' is hydroxy, Z is $-CO_2H$, m = 3, Z' is methyl, n = 1 and n' = 4.

11. A method according to claim 5 wherein A is absent, Y is IV, each R is hydrogen, R' is hydroxy, Z is $-CO_2H$, m is 3, Z' is methyl, n = 1 and n' = 4.

12. A method according to claim 5 wherein A is absent, Y is II, each R is hydrogen, R' is hydroxy, Z is $-CO_2H$, m = 3, Z' is methyl, n = 1 and n' = 4.

13. A method according to claim 5 wherein A is absent, Y is I, each R is hydrogen, Z is $-CO_2H$, m = 3, Z' is methyl, n = 1 and n' = 4.

14. A method according to claim 1 wherein said process mediated by PPAR- γ is cell differentiation to produce lipid-accumulating cells.

15. A method according to claim 1 wherein said process mediated by PPAR- γ is the response of the recipient to insulin.

16. A method of testing a compound for its ability to regulate transcription-activating effects of a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR- γ), said method comprising assaying for changes in the level of reporter protein present as a result of contacting cells containing said receptor and reporter vector with said compound;

wherein said reporter vector comprises:

- (a) a promoter that is operable in said cell,
- (b) a hormone response element, and
- (c) a DNA segment encoding a reporter protein,

wherein said reporter protein-encoding DNA segment is operatively linked to said promoter for transcription of said DNA segment, and

wherein said hormone response element is operatively linked to said promoter for activation thereof.

17. A method according to Claim 16 wherein said hormone response element is a direct repeat of two or more half sites separated by a spacer of one nucleotide, wherein said spacer can be A, C, G or T, wherein each half site comprises the sequence

-RGBNNM-,

wherein

R is selected from A or G;

B is selected from G, C, or T;

each N is independently selected from A, T, C, or G; and

M is selected from A or C;

with the proviso that at least 4 nucleotides of said -RGBNNM- sequence are identical with the nucleotides at corresponding positions of the sequence -AGGTCA-; and

wherein said response element is optionally preceded by N_x , wherein x falls in the range of 0 up to 5.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein said response element has at least one copy of the minimal sequence:

AGGACA A AGGTCA,

5 wherein said minimal sequence is optionally flanked by additional residues.

19. A method according to claim 17 wherein said response element has at least one copy of the sequence:

GGACC AGGACA A AGGTCA CGTTC.

20. A method according to claim 16 wherein said compound is a putative antagonist for said peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma, and wherein said contacting is carried out in the presence of

5 increasing concentrations of said compound, and

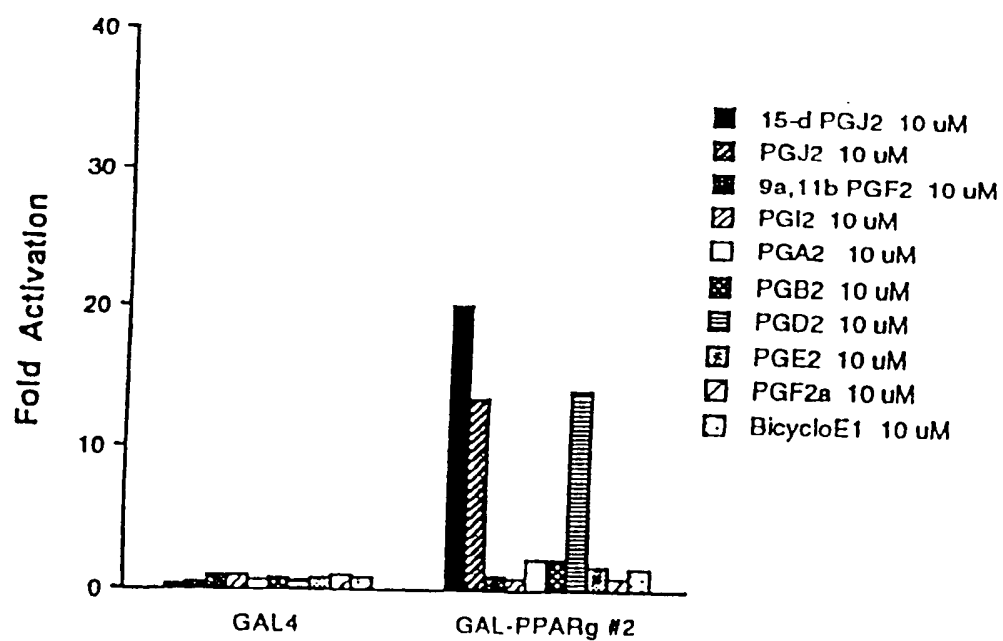
a fixed concentration of at least one agonist for said peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma.

21. A method according to Claim 16 wherein said contacting is carried out in the further presence of at least one PPAR- γ -selective modulator.

22. A method for preventing obesity, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an amount of a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR- γ) antagonist effective to block
5 cell differentiation to produce lipid-accumulating cells.

23. A method for treating diabetes, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an amount of a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-gamma (PPAR- γ) agonist effective to lower the
5 blood glucose level of said subject.

1/2

FIGURE 1

2/2

FIGURE 2

Activation of PPAR γ by Prostaglandins